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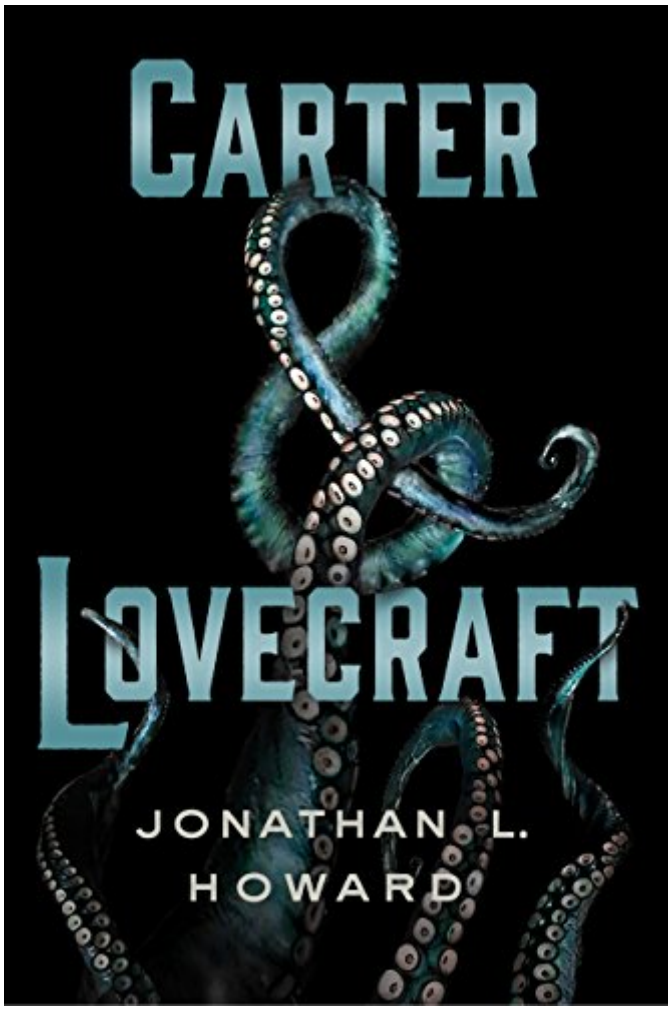
Carter & Lovecraft: A Novel



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Synopsis

From author Jonathan L. Howard comes the start of a thrilling supernatural series that brings the H.P. Lovecraft mythos into the twenty-first century, optioned by Warner Bros TV.Daniel Carter used to be a homicide detective, but his last case -- the hunt for a serial killer -- went wrong in strange ways and soured the job for him. Now he’s a private investigator trying to live a quiet life. Strangeness, however, has not finished with him. First he inherits a bookstore in Providence from someone he’s never heard of, along with an indignant bookseller who doesn’t want a new boss. She’s Emily Lovecraft, the last known descendant of H.P. Lovecraft, the writer from Providence who told tales of the Great Old Ones and the Elder Gods, creatures and entities beyond the understanding of man. Then people start dying in impossible ways, and while Carter doesn’t want to be involved, but he’s beginning to suspect that someone else wants him to be. As he reluctantly investigates, he discovers that Lovecraft’s tales were more than just fiction, and he must accept another unexpected, and far more unwanted inheritance.

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Customer Reviews

The heirs of Lovecraft.So, it seems that Lovecraft was not simply a writer with social anxiety issues; rather, he was writing a secret history of a secret world that his descendant would have to unravel.Dan Carter is a New York detective who found a serial child killer. The child killer was using the children for research into the true nature of the world. Because Carter's partner immediately killed himself after killing the child murderer, Carter took early retirement and went into the private investigation business. Not long, thereafter, Carter mysteriously finds himself as the owner of a bookstore in Providence, Rhode Island, where Emily Lovecraft - HP's granddaughter - works.The mystery of the child killer continues to haunt Carter as he is brought into a new set of mysteries, beginning with the murder of a college professor who is improbably drowned in his car while it is parked at the college parking lot. Carter's investigations lead him to an obnoxious mathematician and an inbred community located at Waite's Bill and, ultimately, to a threat to our reality.The characters of Carter and Lovecraft are well-drawn. Over the course of the book, they develop as a team, each contributing their strength and insights to the resolution of the mystery. Clearly, we have the beginning of a continuing team-up.The reader ought to suspect that another book is in the works from the conclusion, which seems to suggest that the original world that H.P. Lovecraft knew before he mystically fixed the world into a pattern of science and reason.This is a thoroughly contemporary book. Emily Lovecraft is African-American, notwithstanding H.P.'s notorious racism. Carter is constantly dropping analogies to films, and there are several obligatory urban elite shots at the NRA. Howard also nicely works in classic Lovecraftian elements, such as the hidden cultists and half-human/half-inhuman mixed breeds.The book is fun and inventive. The piece that stays with me is the ending where the veil of reality is stripped away so as to suggest that we've all been living an illusion. All in all, this is nice spin-off of the Lovecraft universe.

I will admit I've been curious about HP Lovecraft but his work always seemed a bit inaccessible to me. JL Howard, on the other hand, has been one of my favorite novelists from page one of Johannes Cabal Necromancer. Howard is highly literate, wickedly smart and inventive and just generally a great writer for anyone who likes good prose and inventive story lines. His new novel, Carter & Lovecraft is both a continuation and extension of those qualities and I found in this book that he is CLEARLY a Lovecraft fan and in fact has referenced those works in The Cabal series. A series I still follow with great enthusiasm, pleasure and joy. The man is just a great author in a time when editing seems to have virtually gone out the window and creative stories which don't follow predictable "guidelines" are usually tossed aside the way Hollywood tosses aside new movies in favor of established "blockbusters" that will generate more predictable box-office earnings.Carter &

Lovecraft is both a detective story/mystery and a voyage through "the mountains of madness" as we follow the central characters while they work to suspend their own disbelief and jump down the rabbit hole in order to solve a series of related murders and deaths which seem, on the surface, to be both impossible and factual at the same time. All the while making discoveries about each other, their respective ancestors and the relationships between all of the above, "deaths" included, and the roles they seem destined to play in all of itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| which is not to say there isn't some machinations going on behind the scenes as well.This is a novel with depth, great characters, a wide variety of discordant elements designed to keep you on your toes and to lead you through the web of information that Howard is so great as parsing out. You don't have to be a Lovecraft fan to read it but if you, like me, know anything about his work at all then this will probably stir you to look a little further into the inspiration for a fabulous book that easily stands tall on its own merits. I'm inclined to think this is the beginning of a new series for Howard and I can't wait to find out more about Daniel Carter and Emily Lovecraft and where they will be going from their "new" here and now.I'm hoping that this review has been sufficiently vague as to not feel like it spoils anything while also serving as the proper incentive for you to BUY IT RIGHT NOW! ; -) Howard, as always, is worth every penny.

Great fun. Howard's an excellent writer (his Johannes Cabal series is tremendously well-crafted), and it's clear that he can translate those skills to a new genre. Carter & Lovecraft is something of a blend of hardboiled detective fiction and supernatural mystery, and the combination goes very well together. I think that at least a minimal familiarity with the H.P. Lovecraft mythos is probably helpful here, but I'm anything but an expert, and never felt like I was missing something. Someone who knows it better would probably catch a lot of things that I didn't.

Loved this book from cover to cover! Much more than a simple horror tale, the story is an excellent thriller, in which the author places the characters, details of the New England setting, and enough Mythos subject-matter, that you think you know where it's headed, but the story turns around, several times. I very much hope there's another book on the way, as I loved the characters, and Mr Carter's writing is very engaging. Highly recommended!

While it is well written and darkly unique among genre, I honestly stopped reading about 3/4 the way through and started reading a different book. The villain was more interesting than the hero and heroine.

After having read all of the Johannes Cabal novels, I was jonesing for more Jonathan Howard. I was skeptical of Carter and Lovecraft, as it was untested waters. I was not at all disappointed, in fact coming away more impressed with Mr. Howard's writing than before. Tonally C&L is completely different--so shockingly different that it's hard to believe the Cabal series and C&L were written by the same author. But C&L is much more menacing and more like a true noir story. The characters are well-rounded and entirely likeable, and I'm holding out a strong hope that we will see them again, and soon.

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